

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 /059 W

-----086590 111210Z /45

R 101720Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2581

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6203

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: PSD VIEWS ON THE AZORES

REF: (A) LISBON A-228 (DTD AUG 12, 1977) (NOTAL), (B) PONTA
DELGADA 297 (DTG 091815Z AUG 77)

1. PSD VICE PRESIDENT BARBOSO DE MELO MET WITH
INCOMING CONSUL TO PONTA DELGADA MACK AND EMBOFF AUG 10
TO DISCUSS THE AZORES. MELO WHO ATTENDED THE PSD-AZORES
PARTY CONGRESS JUNE 10 THROUGH 11 MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
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-- REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CHANGES IN SIGHT: REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT MOTA AMARAL HAS ACCEPTED THE POINT THAT
TECHNICIANS FROM THE CONTINENT SHOULD BE BROUGHT
IN AT THE CABINET LEVEL. THE CHANGE WILL BE MADE IN AN
UPCOMING GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION. MOTA AMARAL RECOGNIZES THAT
THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CENTRALIZED IN ONE CITY BUT
TIME IS NOT YET RIGHT FOR THAT CHANGE.

-- INTER-ISLAND RIVALRY: RIVALRY AMONG THE ISLANDS, AND PARTICULARLY AMONG THE FORMER DISTRICT CAPITALS IS THE AZORES BIGGEST POLITICAL PROBLEM. THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY IS A POSITIVE FORCE IN CREATING A COMMON AZOREAN IDENTITY.

-- SEPARATISTS UNIMPORTANT: AZOREAN SEPARATISTS ARE A SMALL GROUP OF WEALTHY INDIVIDUALS WHO LONG FOR THE PAST. THE PSD AZORES CONGRESS IN JUNE FRANKLY DEBATED, AND THEN DISASSOCIATED THE REGIONAL PARTY FROM SEPARATISM. THE AZOREAN PSD HAD SOME SEPARATISTS IN ITS EARLY STAGES BUT ONLY A FEW SEPARATISTS REMAIN IN UNIMPORTANT POSITIONS.

-- BENEFITS OF PS/PSD UNDERSTANDING: THE ACCORDS REACHED BETWEEN THE PS AND THE PSD AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL HAVE REFLECTED THEMSELVES IN AN AGREEMENT TO END POLEMICS ON THE AZORES.

-- TRANSFER OF SERVICES PROCEEDING: THE PSD IS SATISFIED THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES ARE NOW BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE AZORES AT A SATISFACTORY RATE. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT RECENTLY AGREED TO TRANSFER ITS EMPLOYEES FORMERLY ASSIGNED IN AZOREAN DISTRICTS TO THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. A PLAN HAS BEEN PRESENTED FOR TRANSFERRING EDUCATION SERVICES TO THE AZORES.

2. PS LEADER JAIME GAMA CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF AUG 4 THAT THE PS AND PSD HAVE AGREED TO AVOID POLEMICS REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE AZORES AND MADEIRA (REF A). HE FELT CERTAIN THAT THE RECENT PS/PSD UNDERSTANDING WOULD GREATLY FACILITATE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOARES GOVERNMENT AND THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: REPORTING ON THE AZORES AND MADEIRA IN THE LISBON PRESS HAS BEEN FACTUAL, EVEN FAVORABLE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS. INCREASED GOOD WILL BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS COULD GO FAR TOWARD REDUCING TENSIONS BETWEEN THE MAINLAND AND THE ISLANDS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON06203
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770289-0537
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770877/aaaacnjin.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ac9305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LISBON A-228
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1648763
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PSD VIEWS ON THE AZORES
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ac9305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009